

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
 Ashbourne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health, sanitary circumstances, vital statistics and various activities of the Health Department for the year ended 1947.

Statistics of the Area.

Area - 1075 acres.

Estimated number of inhabited houses according to the rate book - 1,596.

Rateable value - £33,301.

Production of penny rate - £131.

Population - 5,133.

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Births.	62.	60.	122.
Legitimate.	59.	55.	
Illegitimate.	3.	5.	

Birth rate per 1000 of the civilian population - 24.4.

Average Birth rate for England & Wales - 20.5.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Still Births - Legitimate.	1.	-.	1.
<u>Deaths.</u>			74.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age. - Legitimate.	2.	2.	4.

Death rate per 1000 of the civilian population - 14.4.

Average Death rate for England and Wales - 12.0.

Natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths) - 50.

Number of persons dying, or in consequence of childbirth - 0.

From Puerpural sepsis - 0.

From other maternal causes - 0.

Average Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales per 1000 - 41.

Deaths from selected causes.	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Cancer all ages.	11.	9.	20.
Measles.	-.	-.	-.
Heart Disease.	6.	8.	14.
Whooping Cough.	-.	-.	-.
Influenza.	-.	-.	-.
Diphtheria.	-.	-.	-.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children immunised during the year - 274.

Approximate number of children in the area - 1109.

Cases of Diphtheria reported during the year - 0.

Evidence of and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	<u>Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	6.	6.	-.
Infantile Paralysis.	4.	4.	-.
Erysipelas.	4.	-.	-.
Measles.	26.	-.	-.
Pneumonia.	7.	1.	-.
Whooping Cough.	2.	-.	-.
Puerpural Pyrexia.	1.	1.	-.

## Tuberculosis.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (prevention of tuberculosis) Regulation 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New cases and mortality during 1947:-

### Respiratory.

4.

### Non-Respiratory.

2.

### Deaths.

2 Respiratory.

## WATER SUPPLY.

To increase the volume of water delivered to the higher parts of the District, a new 7" water main from the reservoirs in Derby Road, via Park Road to King Street, has been laid.

The whole of the supply of water is softened from 28 parts to 10 parts per 100,000 by the Base Exchange process. It is proposed to carry out repairs, and the replacement of the zeolite mineral to the Water Softening Plant, early in the coming year.

The water supply is from the same source as in previous years. The Rodsley Waterworks Pumping plant has been completely overhauled during the year, and the yield has remained constant.

The average daily consumption of water during the year was 150,000 gallons; equivalent to 27 gallons per head per day.

The result of chemical analysis proves the water to be of satisfactory quality for drinking purposes.

The rainfall during the year was 27.53 inches, as compared with 35.54 inches for 1946.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No improvements have been carried out on Sewage Disposal, during the year.

The Council have agreed to take the sewage from the Parish of Clifton, into their Sewage Disposal Works.

## LEGISLATION.

No local Acts, special orders, adoption Acts or byelaws relating to Public Health, came into force during the year.

## HOUSING.

Progress has been made in the erection of houses on the Council's Park Land Estate. Twenty eight parlour type dwellings have been completed and occupied during the year, and work commenced on the construction of the remaining dwellings under the first Contract of 50 houses.

A further contract has been entered for the erection of 50 parlour type dwellings, and commencement made in the construction of these, during the latter part of the year. It is hoped to have a number of houses ready for occupation, early in 1948.

It is proposed to enter into a further Contract for the erection of the remaining 48 parlour type dwellings on this Estate, early in 1948.

Nine new houses have been completed and occupied during the year, by private enterprise. No licences for the erection of new houses have been issued during the year, as under the Licensing Regulations no licences are permissible for new houses, unless these are provided for Miners or Agricultural workers.

### MEAT INSPECTION.

Two Slaughterhouses are in use by the Ministry of Food, for the slaughter of animals required in Ashbourne and District.

All carcases are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and condemnation notes issued for meat which is of unsatisfactory quality for human consumption. Such meat condemned during the year, was as follows:-

- 19 Carcases of Beef.
- 20 Sets Offal.
- 4 Sheep Carcases.
- 19 Sheep Plucks
- 7 Calves.
- 89 Ox-Livers.
- 642 lbs. Beef.
- 21 Hearts.
- 15 Sets Lights and Melts.
- 37 lbs. Mutton.

In addition to regular meat inspections, food inspections have been made (under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938) and condemnation notes issued for foods which were of unsatisfactory quality for human consumption.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A report on the suggested causes, suggested remedies and estimated costs of carrying out a scheme for alleviating flooding of the Henmore Brook has been considered by the County Council. The Council requested that a joint scheme be submitted by the Ashbourne Urban and Rural District Councils, and further consideration is being given to the proposal, by the County Council.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council continue to collect house refuse weekly from all properties in their District, and this is disposed of in a Meldrum Refuse Destructor.

House refuse is sorted for materials such as tins, rags, bones, bottles and rubber, which is still required for salvage. Tins are baled in a hydraulic press.

Waste paper is also collected weekly, and baled for salvage.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council maintain a Bedford Motor Ambulance (the property of the British Red Cross Society) for use of all types of cases other than Infectious Disease cases.

The Ambulance is for use of Ashbourne and District, within a radius of 10 miles, at a charge of 1/- per mile.

The number of journeys made during the year was 147, and the total mileage 3,260.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*M. H. H. H.*

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1948.

